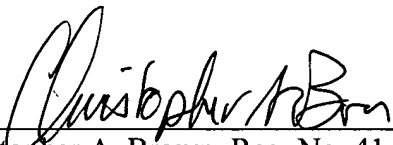


REMARKS

The present preliminary amendment is being offered to add a specific reference to the parent applications to which the present application claims priority, to cancel the originally-filed claims without prejudice to reconsideration, and to offer additional claims to subject matter disclosed in this application and its predecessors. The amendment is not being offered to overcome cited references or any rejection of any claim, and therefore does not have any effect on the eventual literal or equivalent scope of any claim that may issue. In particular, cancellation of claims 1-15 is not intended to suggest or concede that the subject matter therein is not patentable.

It is respectfully requested that this amendment be entered, and that an action toward allowance be issued. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number below if there are any questions or further issues concerning this application or amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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